

DID YOU KNOW?

This list is based directly on reader feedback. We monitor your reviews of travel specialists year-round and make decisions about who to include or exclude based on your collective experience. Please help your fellow *Condé Nast Traveler* readers get the best trip possible by sharing your feedback. When you return from a trip booked by one of these specialists, post your review on his or her profile page at condenasttraveler.com/travel-specialists. If you prefer to comment privately, e-mail me at perrinfeedback@condenasttraveler.com. Thanks!

-W. P.



small villages (800-727-1960; cntrvrl.com/ellison).

Belgium and the Netherlands

Harmina Mulder, The Travel Society

Holland-born Mulder sends travelers to both the high-lights and the lesser-known gems, such as Giethoorn, the Venice of the Netherlands. She'll have you biking to the Keukenhof gardens to see the tulips in April and ordering bulbs to be shipped to your home five months later, just in time for planting (303-337-8262; cntrvrl.com/harmina).

Bulgaria, Montenegro, Romania, and Slovenia

Alexander Datsev, Exeter International

Datsev, a former tour guide in his home country of Bulgaria, will help you navigate the Balkans' relatively undeveloped infrastructure and sometimes Communist-style customer-service mentality. He'll have you taking classes in traditional Bulgarian wood carving or visiting the private cellars of a Romanian monastery for wine-tasting and a chat with the monks (813-251-5355; cntrvrl.com/alexander).

Croatia

Wanda S. Radetti, Tasteful Croatian Journeys
Radetti returns to her native Croatia four or five times a

year and can point you toward Istria's most savory truffles, introduce you to the lamplighter who uses a long wick to illuminate the gas-lights of Zagreb's Old Town, and wrangle invites to the Grand Masked Ball during Carnival in Rijeka (718-932-6893; cntrvrl.com/wanda).

England

Katey Hartwell, Travel Experts

If your attitude toward England is "been there, done that," Hartwell will change your mind. Whether you prefer to stay in haute country manors, B&Bs, or pubs, and whether you want romance or have kids in tow, Hartwell can tailor a trip to suit your needs (720-240-4768; cntrvrl.com/katey).

NEW Jane McCrum,

In Any Event

Londoner McCrum's strength is her personal relationships with heads of museums, palaces, and royal residences. She can usher travelers right past the six-year waiting list to view Prince Charles's gardens at Highgrove, get them into Buckingham Palace outside of visiting hours, and secure VIP access to the most quintessential British activities, such as major horse trials or rowing regattas (44-207-737-0242; cntrvrl.com/jane).

Susie Worthy,

NoteWorthy Events

Worthy's connections among Britain's aristocracy enable her to arrange private after-hours visits to many of the United Kingdom's most exclusive venues and royal residences, including Windsor Castle and Highclere Castle—the "real Downton Abbey." She's also got considerable pull with hard-to-get-into events such as Wimbledon and the Chelsea Flower Show (44-20-3051-5165; cntrvrl.com/susie).

France

NEW Anthony Bay, Anthony Bay's Europe

Headed to Provence? Bay lives there and is a registered French National Guide who can design a ne plus ultra itinerary that incorporates everything from hidden-gem vineyards to the most authentic regional festivals to lunch at Club 55 on Pampelonne beach in St-Tropez (888-414-6548; cntrvrl.com/anthony).

Pascale Bernasse, French Wine Explorers

Serious oenophiles seek out Bernasse for her access to top winemakers, estate owners, and landmark private castles closed to the public, not to mention her ability to arrange private tastings at all five Bordeaux First Growth châteaux, at Château d'Yquem in Sauternes, and at the legendary estates of Pomerol and St-Émilion (877-261-1500; cntrvrl.com/pascale).

Jack Dancy, Trufflepig Travel

Calling all foodies and Paris-bound culture vultures: Dancy's Paris walking itineraries showcase its specialty food shops, galleries, antiques shops, wine bars, and jazz clubs, and he can arrange cooking classes and help nab tough tables. In rural France, his self-drive itineraries will have you meeting artisanal cheese-makers, learning to make pastry in the kitchen of one of France's most legendary restaurants, or participating in the Beaujolais harvest (416-628-1272; cntrvrl.com/jack).

Jill Jergel, Frontiers International Travel

Well connected among the finest French hoteliers, Jergel packs her detailed itineraries with memorable experiences, such as a hot-air balloon ride over the châteaux of the Loire

Valley or touring the World War II battlefields of Normandy with a military historian (800-245-1950; cntrvrl.com/jill).

Howard Lewis, Protravel International

Lewis is the right choice for independent travelers who, rather than using English-speaking drivers or guides, prefer to drive themselves to the cozy inns, chic hotels, and opulent châteaux that he knows so well, stopping en route to explore the charming corners of France that he has mapped out for them (310-271-9566; cntrvrl.com/howard).

Robert Preston, EuroPanache

When you need VIP access to a cultural treasure or an over-the-top experience, Paris-based Preston has the key. He can get you behind the scenes at museums, private art collections, and fashion houses including Chanel, Dior, and Hermès; into private clubs and the Cartier and Van Cleef vaults; or cooking in a private châteaueau with a three-Michelin-star chef (33-1-40-25-49-52; cntrvrl.com/robert).

Germany

Marion Harbison, Sterling Brownell Travel

German native Harbison can point you toward the country's less-visited castles, regional specialty snacks, and colorful small-town festivals and get you into private wineries and local events you won't find on the Internet (423-894-9001; cntrvrl.com/marion).

Greece

Ronnie Liadis, Liadis Travel

Planning a honeymoon or romantic getaway? Liadis loves to send travelers to one-of-a-kind hotels, such as a cave house tucked into Santorini's cliffs or a resort nestled amid ancient ruins. She can throw in off-the-beaten-path wineries and organic farms where you can make cheese and even milk the goats (610-353-8330; cntrvrl.com/ronnie).

Leatheris Papageorgiou, Hellenic Adventures

Seeking a true understanding of the history and culture of Greece? Greek native Papageorgiou has explored every corner of the mainland as well as 57 of its islands, and his museum connections and expert guides can open doors that are otherwise closed to

IMPERIAL ISTANBUL

Avoid the crowds at Topkapi Palace: Turkey specialist Karen Fedorko Sefer can get you in after hours to feast on Ottoman specialties in the Imperial Room.

